

**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ismail Emesh, et al.

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Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS Group Art Unit No.: 3723

FOR ELECTROCHEMICAL

PLANARIZATION OF A

Examiner:

NYA

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement because it is being filed in compliance with § 1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee. The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-2814 for any deficiency or overpayment in the fees required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>3/22/01</u>

Deborah K. Henscheid

Reg. No. 35,940

Enclosures:

PTO-1449

Copies of references

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